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17 February 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence
Deputy Director for Operations
NIO for Counterterrorism

FROM: Executive Assistant to the DDCI

The DDCI would like you to give some thought to paragraph 7 of the attached and let him know when you might be ready to give him your preliminary views.



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Attachment:

DCI Memo to DDCI; Subject: Free-Flowing Thoughts
on Terrorism dtd 2 Feb 84

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2 February 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

FROM: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Free-flowing Thoughts on Terrorism

1. In talking to the President today and later Fred Ikle, who came over to talk about the new NSC package on terrorism, a lot of thoughts and worries that I have been developing came up as well as theirs, and I take this means of passing them on to you.

2. I have a strong feeling that while we have a lot of people working on it, we do not yet have the capability to develop, maintain and keep in focus a coherent picture of the changing threat theory, nor are we addressing all the elements which may be necessary to deal with any form it may take at any given stage. There is a need for an organized and orderly accumulation of the snippets of information that come in. Today we have the Senegalese kicking out the Iranians and Rifat Assad giving protection to Husayn Musawi

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3. I don't know how you keep all this fast-moving data constantly in focus but there needs to be a single point charged with making that effort.

4. I told the President that some day there would be another large-scale attack or disaster and that the only effective retaliation would be against a national state practicing the sponsorship of terrorism for political means. There are really only three such states and any one may be involved in any single incident. They are Iran, Libya and Syria. Fred Ikle said that some planning for this contingency was being done at the JCS, but that it was not adequate and that it needed to be supplemented by continuous planning elsewhere. This needs to be pushed. Preventive effort thus far has largely consisted of intelligence to participate and security arrangements to resist. This needs to be supplemented and to be effectively carried out, to be conducted within a framework of a diplomatic initiative working towards cooperation between all the target nations. The approach I like is to resuscitate the international law of piracy, which a couple hundred years ago implied an obligation on the part of states to seize pirates before they could do their dirty work. The terrorists might be treated as modern pirates with everybody committed to apprehend and check out suspects if only to slow down a possible attack while

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putting them through the appropriate legal processes. This would then be implemented by tighter controls, exchanges of information, etc., etc., etc. The balance of the initiative would be addressed to states practicing the support of terrorism, i.e., economic, diplomatic, and political squeeze.

5. On action to anticipate and preempt terrorist attacks, some nations have more freedom than others. Some can provide police training and others can't. In our case, we now cannot assassinate but when there was a Hitler assassination would have been popular. We certainly don't have to extend the restrictions now extant. Any NSDD should make clear that any action has to be within the Executive Order. Legality of self-defense would not violate the Executive Order. //

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7. I would like to see an effort to articulate a comprehensive diplomatic, political, military, special activity, intelligence program to provide protection against international terrorism in which a lot of nations would be invited to participate. We probably have the best background for putting this together than any other part of the federal government. *

8. We should put an NIO, a DDOer, a DDIer and a lawyer together to see what they can come up with. E


William J. Casey

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